

STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

PUBLIC HEALTH

for

the year

1952

August, 1953

J.H.C. Eglinton  
Medical Officer of Health  
L.C. Corlett  
Sanitary Inspector



To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STREET

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hawker and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the public health of the Urban District for the year 1952.

The estimated population being 5,746, there is a slight increase in the population compared with the previous year 1951 (5,736).

There has been a further decrease in the number of live births 66 (76 in 1951) but a decrease is also noted in the number of deaths, 63, (67 in 1951).

Deaths from Heart Disease, Vascular Lesions together with deaths from cancer continue to predominate. This is in keeping with the general experience in England and Wales.

We were fortunate in that no case of poliomyelitis or puerperal pyrexia was reported in the district during the year.

We have been particularly free from cases of notifiable infectious disease, only 25 having been reported during the year.

May I again comment on the importance of maintaining, indeed increasing, immunization against diphtheria. The comparatively few cases of and the absence of death in diphtheria in the country is due to immunization.

The swimming bath with its excellent record of cleanliness is increasing in popularity and is a great asset in building up the health of and providing recreation for the community, particularly the younger generation.

We are fortunate in having a good water supply (chlorinated) and the Council is ever vigilant in its maintenance particularly in view of the increasing consumption.

#### Milk

The regular sampling of designated milk continually brings to the notice of the retailers the vital importance of maintaining a clean milk supply.

The Council has again fully maintained its drive to build the maximum number of houses within the limits imposed by the Ministry of Health's allocation thereby assisting the urgent and pressing needs of the community. The result of this policy is now evident in the number of houses under construction and completed during the year.

The many problems associated with the elderly people continue to increase - some of the difficulties are from the long term maladies in an aging population and are increased by the number of elderly chronic sick. One notes with satisfaction the lead the Council has given to the various organisations in the district in promoting the recreation and welfare of the elderly. The urgent problem of having to house and look after the chronic sick remains, the last resort, at present, being the public assistance institutions which are not only full but have a waiting list.

In conclusion, may I, once again, thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued courtesy and the Staff for their loyalty and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hawker and Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,

J.H.C. EGLINTON  
Medical Officer of Health.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1952  
VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS

Area of the Urban District of Street - 3,069 square yards.		
	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Population - The estimated population for 1952 was	5,746	5,736
The number of live births, one illegitimate, was	66	76
(37 male, 29 female) Giving a live birth rater per 1000 of the estimated home population of	11.8	11.5
The live birth rate for England and Wales being	15.3	15.5
The number of still births was	0	1
Giving a still birth rate of	0	0.17
The still birth rate for England and Wales being	0.35	0.36
The total number of deaths was	63	67
(27 Males 36 Females) Giving a death rate per 1000 of the estimated home population of	10.96	11.68
The death rate for England and Wales being	11.3	12.5

Infants

The number of deaths of infants uner one year	2	1
Giving an Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births of	30.30	13.17
The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales being	27.6	29.6

Causes of Death

Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	3
Malignant neoplasm (stomach: 2)	15	6
(lung : 1)		
(breast : 1)		
(uterus : 1)		
(other : 10)		
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	10
Coronary disease, angina	6)	
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3)	28
Other heart disease	9)	
Other circulatory disease	1	3
Influenza	1	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis	1	-
Nephritis	4	1
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	7
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
Suicide	-	1

Notifications of Infectious Diseases

Scarlet Fever	12	6
Measles	4	178
Pneumonia	3	-
Whooping Cough	5	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1
Erysipilas	1	-

Notification of Tuberculosis

Respiratory	4	5
Non-respiratory	0	0
Deaths during year	1	3
<u>Tuberculosis</u>		
Number of cases on the Register on December 31st	19	18
Respiratory	17	16
Non-respiratory	2	2

## Diphtheria Immunisation

Primary : No. immunised 72  
Re-inforcing : No. immunised 128

Total under 15 immunised to date from 1938: 977

## Vaccination

Number of reported vaccinations: 9

## Child Welfare and Nursing Association. (Somerset C.C.)

The child welfare and nursing association have again had a busy year, giving a very useful service to the community.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Wednesday in a portion of the Hindhayes Infant School, where the District Nurses, three in number, ordinarily attend; I have attended as Medical Officer on alternate Wednesdays. The Infant Welfare Committee and voluntary helpers greatly contribute to the smooth running of the clinic at which there have been an increased number of attendances

## Activities

Short talks and demonstrations have taken place as in previous years and Ordinary Clinic Sessions and Immunization Sessions against diphtheria have been held.

## Infant Welfare Attendances

	1952	1951
Number of Sessions	50	50
Number of Children under one year	992	980
Number of Children over one year	756	729
Number of Mothers, total attendances	1728	1517
Number of Individual Mothers	206	184
Number of Children examined by the Doctor	141	105

## District Attendances

General Nursing: New Cases 293  
Visiting 3314  
Midwifery and Maternity Cases 33  
Infant Visiting:  
No. of Infants 529  
No. of Visits made 2717

Distribution of supplies has taken place as in former years e.g. National dried milk and also other welfare foods.

It will be seen that the work of the District Nurses includes maternity, midwifery, ante-natal, infant health, welfare centre, school medical inspections etc. as well as the ordinary district nursing duties.

The number of visits to old people continues to rise, together with the many and varied problems associated with the elderly.

## Analgesia

The nurses are provided with the necessary equipment and expectant mothers are given analgesia if so desired.

## Home Help Service

The Home Help Service, with a local Honorary Organiser, is under the direction and control of the County Council and is part of the County Health Scheme. It continues to be a very valuable service, and in contrast to last year a much improved one, although it still has its difficulties. Its success is in no small measure due to the effort



of Mrs. Marsden, the local organiser. It is well patronized and recruits its members from local women, the regular members being supplied with an overall and distinctive badge.

Experience has shown that on an average 8 home helps are able to cope with the demands of the district, although occasionally outside help has been necessary.

The service rendered is primarily during illness in the home and mainly amongst elderly people, being particularly valuable to those living alone. In addition, assistance is rendered in domiciliary, maternity and midwifery cases, operation cases etc.

### Old Peoples' Welfare

The Street Old Peoples' Welfare Committee formed in 1951 extended its activities considerably during the year.

The Social Club became more firmly established and met weekly on Thursday at the Crispin Hall. The members played cards, dominoes and chess, read the wide variety of periodicals provided or just chatted together. The measure of their enjoyment was indicated by the rise in membership from about twenty to over a hundred during the year. Outings were arranged during the summer and various entertainments were given. A great deal of help was forthcoming from voluntary organisations and the Club's problem at the end of the year was to find sufficient accommodation for all the members.

A Visiting Service was commenced during the year and 22 old people unable to get out and about were regularly visited in their homes by a team of 16 visitors. There appears to be a very great need for such a service which undoubtedly gives pleasure to the old people concerned.

As an extension of the Service, strenuous efforts were being made at the close of the year to commence the "Meals on Wheels" Service in Street to deliver hot mid-day meals to old people in their homes at a small cost.

### Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Messrs. C. and J. Clark's Factory this year in November and the survey was most successful.

The total number of examinations were:

Miniature Films	Male	Female	Total
	907	594	1501
Large Films	82	40	122
			<hr/>
	Grand Total		1623
			<hr/>

As a result of this survey a new case of active tuberculosis residing in the Urban District was discovered.

### Street Day Nursery

The Day Nursery which proved such a great asset to Street was closed during the year by the County Authority as a measure of economy.

### Dogs and Shops

The response of the local shopkeepers to the notice sent out to them last year asking for their co-operation in excluding dogs from their shops, particularly food shops, has been very satisfactory.

## Greenbank Swimming Pool

This bath, privately owned, situated in Wilfrid Road, Street was made possible through a legacy from the late Miss Alice Clark, a pioneer in the welfare of women and children. It has once again proved to be a great asset to Street and district, people and school parties coming from considerable distances.

The capacity of the bath is 200,000 gallons, the water is heated and the children's section is separate from the adults.

No accidents were reported and the percentage of people using the bath who can swim is very high and increasing. The attendance this year totalled 48,000 of which 30,000 were children as compared with 38,000 and 24,000 respectively last year.

The breakpoint method of chlorination was used with excellent results and a high standard of water was kept throughout the season. Tests for free chlorine, alkalinity and bi-carbonate alkalinity were taken several times each day. Samples were taken by the Local Authority and sent to the County Analyst. The surrounds and dressing rooms were kept clean by daily scrubbing with a sterilising agent.

A qualified Bath Superintendent with other helpers is in regular attendance and the Urban District Council is represented on the Management Committee.

The normal season is from May 1st to September 30th.

## Parks

There are two small parks in Street for the elderly peoples relaxation and childrens amusement at Merriman Gardens and Wraxhill. In addition there is the Victoria Playing Field where cricket, tennis and football are played; there is also a Playing Field and Sports Ground in Grange Road belonging to Messrs. C. and J. Clark, Ltd.

During the year the facilities provided in Merriman Park for the use of the public were added to by the provision of a Sun Shelter which was erected by public contribution as a War Memorial to the Fallen in the two World Wars. Several ornamental seats were also provided by various organisations and considerable use appears to have been made of the Sun Shelter since it was brought into use.

## The Huts

During the year 23 families vacated Military Huts, clearing East Camp and leaving only 11 huts occupied at West Camp, Woods Batch, which number it is hoped to reduce by the winter of 1953.

The Council is taking steps to develop the East Camp Site for housing purposes and it is hoped that in another 12 - 18 months the remainder of the West Camp hut dwellers will be rehoused or have found other accommodation.

## Cemetery

The number of burials during the year was 48.

The available space for burials in the cemetery being nearly full the Council considered this question and gave the necessary instruction for the extension of the existing cemetery with respect to future requirements.

## Mortuary

The number of cases admitted during the year:-

1. From within the Urban District : 1
2. From without the Urban District : 11



Bakehouses, Restaurant Kitchens etc.

Inspections and re-inspections of these premises were carried out during the year. The attention of the occupiers was drawn to any item requiring attention and as a result there was an improvement on the previous year.

Dairies

Visits were paid to the retail dairies in the district. A satisfactory state of cleanliness was found.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

Routine inspections of Factories etc. have been made including inspections in connection with Means of Escape in case of fire.

Generally satisfactory conditions were found and where necessary attention was drawn to any sanitary defects which existed.

WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supply of the District has been generally satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

(3) Piped supplies - results of samples taken for analysis:-

RAW WATER				Chlorinated at source TREATED AFTER GOING INTO SUPPLY			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsat facto
-	-	-	-	20	-	1	-

(4) Waters not liable to have Plumbo-solvent action

(5) No action taken in respect of any form of contamination

(6) Water Supplies from Public Mains:-

DIRECT TO THE HOUSES		BY MEANS OF STANDPIPES	
(a) No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of D. Houses	Population
1603	5611	6	25

Wells

A chemical and bacteriological sample from a well supply to two cottages were taken during the year and the results were unsatisfactory. Steps were taken to have the public water supply used instead of this well.

Extensions or improvements of Supplies during year

Only extensions carried out were in connection with development works on Council's Housing Sites and to Somerton Road Private Houses Development.

Future Proposals

Possible completion of section of trunk main.

Any observations

The work will benefit the parishes of Meare, Godney, Sharpham and other parishes in the Wells R.D.C. and will probably increase delivery rate of water in Street.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Give any extensions of sewers, new works or improvements during year:-

Only extensions carried out were those serving new Council sites and the Private Development on the Frontage of Somerton Road.



## CAMPING SITES

- (a) No. of camping sites for which licences have been issued : 1  
(b) Maximum number allowed per acre: 1 individual caravan limited period  
(d) Estimated maximum number of campers resident during year:  
2 permanent.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The District is largely served by water carriage system; figures for pail closets not known.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

Weekly collections of House Refuse made for the whole district; collection by own Karrier Bantam with direct labour and disposal by controlled tipping.

## PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is one Public Swimming Pool in the district; the approximate number of bathers is between 100 - 150 per day.

The Water Supply is chlorinated and filtered and the results of samples taken and inspections made indicate that a very satisfactory standard of cleanliness is maintained at this Pool at all times.

## HOUSING

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection @31.12.52.		Conversion to flats or dwellings		Temporary such as Army Huts in use.
	Pern	Temp.	Pern.	Temp.	Pern.	Temp.	
Local Authority	24	63	38	57	-	-	
Private Enterprise	6		13		-	-	
TOTALS	30	63	51	57			

Exclusive of those above built during the year-

Give - Total number of houses in District 1609  
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority 371

No. of Post War Houses erected to 31st December, 1952		Provisional Programme for 1953	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
213	30	Under Construction: 86 Yet to start: 32	13

- a) No. of unfit houses in the District but on which no formal action has been taken Estimated 65 exclusive of Camps (all occupied)

### Houses required:-

- (i) To replace those unfit under (a) 65 (Estimated)  
(ii) To abate overcrowding 80 (Estimated)  
(iii) To overcome unsatisfactory conditions e.g. two families living in same house but not included in (i) or (ii) 70 (Very approx.)

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year: 146

MILK

(a)	No. of Registered Distributors	:	4
(b)	No. of Registered Dairy Premises	:	5
(c)	No. of supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside your area	:	1

ICE CREAM

No. of premises registered for:-

(a)	Manufacture and retail	1
(b)	Manufacture only	-
(c)	Retail only	11

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

(a)	No. in use under Ministry of Food	Nil. Casualties occasionally slaughtered.
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Approximate weight of meat condemned - in lbs -

181 lbs of meat condemned as unfit for food and 294½ lbs of various tinned food, mainly meat, condemned at various shops.

BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15

Date Byelaws came into operation  
Any action taken respecting enforcement and result

21st May, 1951  
No enforcement action taken  
Routine inspections made.